



City Administrator's Report

March 2010

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

James L. Armstrong
jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5301

Tony Ruggieri
truggieri@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
(805) 564-5311

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, March 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Community Events

Grand Re-Opening of Eastside Library

Saturday, March 13th at Noon at the Eastside Library on 1102 East Montecito Street.

Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 14th. Change clocks one hour ahead before going to bed.

11th Annual State of the City Address

Tuesday, March 16th, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort at 633 East Cabrillo Boulevard.

Plan Santa Barbara Open House

Thursday, March 18th, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Central Library's Faulkner Gallery on 40 East Anapamu Street.

Cesar Chavez Holiday

Wednesday, March 31st. City Offices closed.

Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd at 10 a.m. at Chase Palm Park on 323 East Cabrillo Boulevard.

Flags on State Street

Opera Santa Barbara/The Granada

March 1st through 12th

Santa Barbara SymphonyMarch 12th through 22nd***American Red Cross***March 22nd through April 2nd

City Administrator's Office

City Budget Update. Last month, City Council held a Special Budget Work Session to review revenue and expenditure projections. As a result of continued decline in revenues, a budget shortfall of \$9 million is projected for Fiscal Year 2011. During the Budget Work Session, City Council discussed potential strategies for addressing the projected budget shortfall. As part of the process, each General Fund Department is developing potential budget adjustment options to help balance the budget. Balancing strategies will include a combination of 1) department budget cuts, 2) employee salary and benefit reductions, 3) increased fees and other revenues, and 4) delays to capital improvements. The City is actively working with all employee labor associations to generate cost savings through wage and benefit reductions.

The Fiscal Year 2011 Recommended Budget is tentatively scheduled for presentation to Council on Tuesday, April 20th, marking the beginning of Council and public review. Public budget review meetings with the City Council will be held through June, culminating in the Council's adoption by June 30th

2010 Census Forms. Local residents will be receiving their 2010 census forms in the mail next week. Residents must answer ten short questions on the form and mail it back using the pre-paid postage envelope. The Constitution requires the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct a census every ten years. By counting every resident in the country and collecting basic information about residents, the 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year to support hospitals, schools, highway and road projects, and emergency services. Census Takers may visit the homes of residents who fail to return the form. For more information, visit: www.countyofsb.org/2010census.

11th Annual State of the City Address. Mayor Helene Schneider will address the business community in the annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, March 16th from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Fess Parker's Double Tree Resort. The event is hosted by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Business First Bank, Deckers Outdoor Corporation and Marborg Industries. Mayor Schneider will discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead and City Administrator Jim Armstrong will make a presentation on the City's financial condition. To register for the event, call the Chamber of Commerce at 965-3023 or register online at: www.sbchamber.org/.

Administrative Services Department

Learn About Construction Activity on City Website. Over 4,800 people use the City website, www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov, everyday to access valuable information and resources. For example, the website provides tools to view construction activity in local neighborhoods. Visitors to this page can view a map that contains information about major construction projects throughout the City. When clicking on one of the map's icons, the public can learn about

construction plans, including project details, construction schedules, and contact information. To access this valuable tool, visit the [City's website](#).

Supervising Senior Accountant Position. The City is currently recruiting for the position of Supervising Senior Accountant. The incumbent will perform a variety of professional level accounting and supervisory duties in the City's Utility Billing and Customer Service program. For more information, visit the [City's website](#).

Airport Department

January Passenger Traffic Declines. Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) decreased in January 2010 compared to January 2009. This January, SBA served 51,603 passengers, a 6.8% decrease when compared to last January's passenger traffic count. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the *United* flights to Denver (80.5%) and *Horizon Air* flights to Seattle (71.0%).

Community Development Department

Plan Santa Barbara Open House. *Plan Santa Barbara* is the City's public outreach process for the General Plan update. During this process, the City's housing, transportation, and environmental policies are evaluated and adjusted to best meet the community's needs. Residents are invited to drop by an Open House on Thursday, March 18th, between 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Central Library's Faulkner Gallery. The event is the first opportunity to learn about issues that directly impact the community, including policies and programs to live within our resources, affordable housing opportunities, and safe and convenient transportation. During the open house residents can pick up copies of the Draft Housing Element, Draft Land Use Element/Land Use Map, and Draft Environmental Impact Report. City staff will be on hand to answer questions. For more information and updates on *Plan Santa Barbara*, visit: www.YouPlanSB.org.

Planning Commission Update. The Planning Commission's March and early April meeting schedule includes the following items:

On March 18th, the Planning Commission will make a decision on a mixed-use project at 825 De la Vina Street. The Commission reviewed this project on December 3, 2009, and continued it for further study at the Architectural Board of Review.

On April 8th, the Draft Coast Village Road Design Guidelines and Architectural Standards are tentatively scheduled for review.

The April 15th meeting has been cancelled.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a major revenue source for the City, is a tax imposed on guests for staying in any hotel, inn, motel, or other commercial lodging establishment for 30 days or less. TOT revenue for January was down 6.9% from last January, excluding additional collections from the vacation rental audit program. It is estimated that TOT will decline 6.5% every remaining month of this fiscal year. Overall, TOT is down 11.4% year-to-date for the same period last year. For Fiscal Year 2010, it is estimated that TOT would total \$10,896,464, which would be a 9.5% decline in overall TOT from the prior year.

Spirit of Service Awards. *Looking Good Santa Barbara* is a program that brings residents, City employees, and representatives from local businesses and community organizations together to increase and promote recycling and reduce visual blight, such as graffiti and litter. The program's Annual Spirit of Service Awards recognizes efforts of local residents and organizations to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, and clean-up litter and graffiti. Nominations for the Spirit of Service Awards are currently being accepted and are due by Friday, March 12th. The Spirit of Service awards luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 6th. For more information, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SOS/.

Fire Department

Office of Emergency Services Newsletter Now Available. The City's Office of Emergency Services (OES) now has a monthly newsletter with important information for residents about emergency preparedness. Each monthly newsletter will include tips, emergency updates, and other helpful resources. This month's issue includes information about the recent tsunami advisory resulting from the earthquake in Chile and an update on the earthquake in Haiti. To sign up to receive an e-subscription to the newsletter, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/GetReadySB.

Daylight Saving Time. Residents are reminded to set their clocks one hour ahead, or "spring forward," on the night of Sunday, March 14th for daylight saving time. The Fire Department encourages everyone to use this time to change the batteries in their smoke detectors before going to bed. Although 82% of U.S. homes have smoke detectors, about one-third do not work due to low or missing batteries. By providing an early warning and extra time to escape in the case of a fire, functional smoke detectors can decrease the risk of fatalities by nearly 50%. Batteries should also be replaced whenever detectors make a chirping sound, which signals a low battery.

Library Department

A New Chapter at the Eastside Library. A renovation and equipment upgrade project at the Eastside Library has just been completed. The main adult section of the Eastside Library now has twice as many computers, new painting, carpeting, furniture, and energy-efficient lighting. The improvements were made possible by a generous donation from local resident

Rose Karat. The public is invited to attend a grand re-opening event on Saturday, March 13th at noon in the main reading room of the Eastside Library.

Turning the Page of Santa Barbara Reads. Over the last two months, panel discussions were held with UCSB professors and community experts as part of a partnership with the UCSB Reads program. The program engages the community in a series of conversations, lectures, readings, and other activities based on issues generated by a chosen novel. This year's book was *Enrique's Journey*, written by Sonia Nazario. This book documents the journey of a Honduran boy, Enrique, as he tries to find his mother in North Carolina. The UCSB Library gave away 2,500 copies of the book to students and the Public Library loaned copies of the book in both English and Spanish. The Library also gave away 100 copies of the book to students at McKinley Elementary School. Other activities, including screenings of related films, were also held at the Central Library. The Santa Barbara/UCSB Reads Program generated a lot of community interest and support and has been a successful partnership.

Parks and Recreation

Sunset Cruise Fundraiser to Benefit Parks and Recreation Department . The Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports the enhancement of local parks, open space, and recreation opportunities. The PARC Foundation is holding a fundraiser to raise money for the City's Summer Fun Program, which provides a free summer camp program to 600 of the community's neediest youth. Guests will enjoy a sunset cruise on the Condor Express while enjoying the scenery and hors d'oeuvres created and served by teens in a culinary training program. Non-members of the PARC Foundation are encouraged to become a member and enjoy the cruise for a gift of \$100 or more. The Condor Express will depart from the Sea Landing at 301 West Cabrillo Boulevard on Friday, April 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. for the two-hour cruise. For more information, call the PARC Foundation at 280-9799.

Spring and Summer Fun. Parents are encouraged to keep their children healthy and active during their spring and summer breaks by enrolling them in one of the City's many camps and outdoor clinics. Dates, locations, fees, and registration deadlines for these activities can be found in the City's Spring and Summer Activity Guide. The Guide also includes information about adult programs and facility rentals. The Spring and Summer Activity Guide can be viewed online starting Friday, March 19th at: www.sbparksandrecreation.com.

Exciting Eggstravaganza. On Saturday, April 3rd, at 10 a.m., the City will sponsor the Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt at the Great Meadow in Chase Palm Park at 323 East Cabrillo Boulevard. Adults with children eight years old and under are encouraged to attend the event with their own baskets. Egg hunters will be separated by age group into four different areas. In addition to the egg hunt, children can meet police officers and firefighters and will also have the opportunity to take a photo with the Easter Bunny. High school students can earn community service credit by volunteering during the event. For more information, contact the City's Youth Activities office at 564-5495.

Arbor Day: Trees are Terrific. This month, the City, along with Santa Barbara Beautiful, is participating in Arbor Day, which is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Each year, the National Arbor Day Foundation holds a poster contest among

63,000 fifth graders across the country. The contest is designed to increase knowledge about the importance of trees in the production and conservation of energy. Participants must design a poster around the theme, "Trees are Terrific and Energy Wise." One winner will be chosen from each school. Along with the poster competition, tree plantings will be held at local schools. The participation of local youth on Arbor Day allows Santa Barbara to qualify for the Tree City USA designation, which the City has received for 30 consecutive years.

Youth Speak Out. This month, the Santa Barbara Youth Council held a Youth Speak Out event to inform and educate teens and young adults about their legal rights and to begin a dialogue between teens, law enforcement, and adult authority. The panel included a local police officer, an attorney, an advocate for teen legal rights, and two teens. The panelists offered their perspectives and personal experiences regarding teen rights and answered questions prepared by teens. The discussion was followed by an open forum in which youth rights and civil liberties were discussed.

Police Department

Domestic Pit Bull Attack. Last month, police officers responded to a residence in the 800 block of East Haley Street for a domestic disturbance. When officers arrived, they saw a man trying to stop a fight between a couple. Officers were able to separate the witness from the altercation, but the couple continued to fight. As officers tried to separate the fight, a large pit bull came out of the home and tried to attack one of the officers. A taser weapon was deployed and the pit bull retreated. There were no injuries during the domestic dispute.

Felons Caught with Firearms and Drugs. Last month, detectives responded to a complaint of trespassers in a vacant apartment on Parker Way. In the apartment, detectives found two gang members who were recently released from prison and subject to parole terms. Officers discovered drugs scattered throughout the apartment and a duffle bag with a loaded pistol. One suspect was booked for being a felon in possession of a gun, drug possession, and child endangerment. The other suspect was booked for various drug violations.

Public Works Department

City Achieves LEED Certifications. The City recently achieved three LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certifications. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, which provides verification that a building was designed using environmental strategies that include improving energy savings, water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and reducing emissions.

The City received the highest possible award, LEED Platinum certification, for its offices at 630 Garden Street, for the reduction of energy, water, and waste through policy decisions and employee participation.

At the Airport, the Quick-Turn-Around rental car service facility achieved LEED Gold certification under the New Construction category and was recognized for its solar panels and the recycling and reuse of a majority of its construction waste.

Fire Station 1 also received LEED Gold certification under the New Construction category for its green building material and construction techniques. In all three of these projects, the City took advantage of pending construction and renovation projects to incorporate green features that reduce electric bills and protect the environment.

A Walk Through West Downtown. Construction has begun along West Anapamu Street from Chapala Street to Highway 101 as part of the West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project. The project involves reconfiguring the four intersections along West Anapamu Street located at Chapala, De La Vina, Bath, and Castillo Streets. These four intersections will have new crosswalks, access ramps, curb extensions, lighting, and landscaping. There will be additional improvements between these four intersections, including pedestrian lighting and landscaping, sidewalk repair, and other features to make the West Anapamu corridor more pedestrian friendly. Construction is expected to continue through May of this year.

Waterfront Department

Replenishing Goleta Beach. The sand replenishment project at Goleta Beach is in its final phase. About 50,000 cubic yards of high quality sand is dredged from West Beach and deposited onto the western part of Goleta Beach. Trucks of sand are being delivered to the beach on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A marine barge is also being used to transport sand and may be active until the evening hours. This project will nourish Goleta Beach and will meet stringent state and federal health and environmental standards. The project is a joint effort between the City and County and funded by FEMA. It is expected to last approximately three weeks.

Federal Channel Dredging. The City is currently working to maintain the federal channel, which has become especially silted due to recent heavy storms. The weather has contributed to a significant amount of sediment compared to past years, making the need for dredging even more important. Dredging is a process that maintains the waterways so that sediment sand and mud are cleared away to make the channel safe for navigation. Last month, AIS Construction Company of Carpinteria began its spring cycle of dredging. The work is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Tsunami Advisory at Santa Barbara Harbor. On February 27th, the City activated the County's Reverse 9-1-1 system due to a Tsunami Advisory that was issued in response to an 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile. At the Santa Barbara Harbor, visitors, fisherman, residential boaters, and businesses were advised to leave the water, beach, harbor, and marina areas due to dangerous currents and high surf. The City also closed off the breakwater walkway as a safety precaution. Although there was no significant damage to the Harbor, frequent tidal fluctuations of up to three feet generated significant surges and swirling currents, which made it difficult to navigate in and out of the Harbor. The surges resulted in some navigational confusion among vessels or caused some vessels to lose steerage. All these vessels were safely towed to deeper water or carried there by the rush of another tidal surge. A few boats broke dock lines in their slips and one accidentally ran over and severed a navigational buoy. There were no reports of injuries during the dangerous currents and high surf.